

A field ready for harvest south of Moosomin

Ashley Bochek photo

Harvest begins in the southeast

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After a few parting blows in the form of late summer storms to officially sign off the month of August, area producers are taking to the fields for harvest—anxious to see how this year's crop will come off. After a hot July, scattered rains across the region either shortened initial harvesting days or kept combines grounded altogether. Regardless, it's safe to say most local farmers will be at-

Regardless, it's safe to say most local farmers will be at-tacking rippened crops with zeal this week. "We're just desiccating everything right now, just fin-ishing that up in a day or two here," reported Blake Duch-ek. "And the cereals, the wheat looks really promising." Given the dry weeks through July, Duchek is looking forward to seeing what his durum will yield.

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"This is our first year growing durum, and I've been looking at that pretty close," he said. "The heads seemed to have filled real nicely on the durum. Usually durum can take a drought better than spring wheat, so I'm hop-

ing the durum really performs."¹ Spotty rains have been another concern for the Atwater/Stockholm producer. One example Duchek provided was receiving more than half an inch of rain on the At-water side while not seeing a drop while spraying near Stockholm

Water side while not seeing a drop while spraying near Stockholm. "Right now we're getting a little bit of rain every night," he said. "That really isn't helping our standing crops, they're done for the year. At this point, it's going to start hurting the quality."

Some producers have already begun their busy fall sea-

son. Jeff Warkentin estimated Hebert Grain Ventures be-ing about 15 per cent done last week. "We've been going for probably eight or nine days now," he said. "Unfortunately, Mother Nature hasn't cooperated every day and it has kind of made for some short days, but we're picking away at it when we can."

On average, getting the grain from field to bin takes about 40 days at the Hebert operation, and so far the wheat and barley especially have been producing nicely. "The early cereals have been really good, we're very happy with them so far," Warkentin said. "It's nice to see. A little extra yield makes up for the drop in price."

Continued on page B4 🖙

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Harvest begins in the southeast

Section Continued from front Should everything go to plan, wheat will wrap up in 10 days, and then it's on

B4

to canola. "It's staying pretty hot and humid,

"It's staying pretty hot and humid, hopefully it doesn't get cool for a long time yet." Warkentin said. "Every day we can harvest in August is a bonus—the days are longer and there's more heat." In the Rocanville area, Rylar Hutchin-son is champing at the bit to get going as those rains everyone prayed for during the smoky, hot days in July have arrived a little too late in the season. "My stuff isn't quite ready. Gettine

"My stuff isn't quite ready. Getting there, but now it seems we're getting the rains we wanted back in July so those will slow some guys down," Hutchinson said, adding that despite recent rains, crops overall look good. "Our place was on the edge of that

"Our place was on the edge of that storm," he said of the Aug. 18 blast that devastated parts of Manitoba just over the border. "Storm chasers were out north of Rocanville by the mine and they followed it from there—St. Lazare, Welwyn, McAu-ley, Elkhorn. Crops in those areas got hit with the hail and some even lost some

With the fail and some even lost some acres of crop." On Hutchinson's land, heavy rain hit— about an inch in 30 minutes during that particular storm—but thankfully no hail disturbed his fields. The unpredictability of August is par for

the course, with most farmers indicating a slightly early to average start for harvest.

"The humidity is high. It doesn't feel good. Anything could develop with this kind of warmth and humidity," Kevin Kind of Warmin and numidity. Kevin Hruska said. "Harvest is always difficult until the leaves drop off the trees and turn brown. You just have so much humidity that seems to be a turning point where you actually are into harvest weather. The way it is right now, we're just fighting every cloud that comes around, and that's pretty normal.

Hruska estimates the Gerald area as be-

"Our later canola, some of the will ake advantage of this cooler weather," he said. "We'll make the best of it."



Harvest is underway in the area. This photo by Kevin Weedmark was taken south of Moosomin last week.

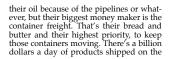
Game called on account of train

With last week's news of a rail lockout by the nation's two largest railways, many producers are concerned about what will happen with that crop once it's in the bin. The Union gave strike notice Aug. 18, and both CN and CPKC claim Teamsters continue to reject offers proposed to avoid job action.

However the federal government an-nounced on Thursday it had sent the rail dispute to binding arbitration. The big concern for producers is when

The big concern for producers is when those wheels will start rolling again and transporting grain to port. "It will delay the movement of grain and most likely the price of it," Hutchinson said of the job action. "Guys still needing to move last year's crop to make room. It's hard to say how long it could last. Hope-fully it's resolved sooner than later!" Halting trains has been something sev-eral business prouses and government

eral business groups and government spent months talking about. The effects of such a pause in service could be devastat-ing for sectors across North America. "The grain cars are always last priority for them," Duchek stated. "They can lose



Losing out on that kind of productivity would surely cripple local industry relying on those trains to move goods and secure contracts.

"We compete on the world stage with our grain, with our manufacturing and everything," Hruska said.

Still ahead of average According to the latest provincial crop report, 15 per cent of this year's crops are in the bin—ahead of the five-year average by 13 per cent. Fall rye, triticale, and win-ter wheat are the top three crops at 62, 61,

and 56 per cent harvested respectively. In the southeast, harvest progress is at 21 per cent already, also above the five-year average by 11 per cent. Narrowing the scope to the local region, an estimated four per cent of the crop has been harvest-ed ed.

ed. Despite scattered rains throughout the region, topsoil moisture continues to fall short with 33 per cent reporting as ad-equate; 37 per cent short; and 30 per cent very short. As for hayland topsoil mois-ture, 25 per cent is listed as adequate, 40 per cent short; and 35 per cent very short.



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Late season storms damage crops in some areas

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

With most producers in the region ready to hit the field to begin harvest 2024, the storm clouds of Aug. 18 certainly brought panic along with the high winds, heavy rain and hail. Weather apps buzzed with updates in the late afternoon with updates and wather for source update. warnings and watches for severe weather. At one point, the potential for a tornado was very real in a bell-shaped zone en-compassing Maryfield down to Carnduff, then east into Manitoba in the Medora

area and up back to Kola. Barry Lowes is the Reeve of the Mani-toba RM of Ellice-Archie, and he reported crop damage despite being on the outer limits of the storm's path. "We were just on the edge of the hail.

"We were just on the edge of the hail. We had about four quarters of crops that are just gone," he said. "We had just start-ed combining a few nights before, but then we kept getting these little rains and we couldn't get back to it. The barley was going 115 bushels to the acre we figured, and it's absolutely gone now." Lowes said he heard reports that large hail from the storm caused damage to ve-hicles and buildings. The sudden burst of activity also did a number on the commu-nity pasture in the RM, flattening native prairie grass.

nity pasture in the RM, flattening native prairie grass. "It looks like it's been overgrazed; terri-ble, like there's nothing there," described Lowes. "Absolutely nothing at all." Danny Pearson, manager of the Ellice-Archie Community Pasture, agreed with Lowes, noting, "it's like somebody went out there with a lawnmower in a couple fields." fields

"One fortunate thing with those fields, they're in a rotation," Pearson went on to explain. "We do have the opportunity— and we did get a lot of rain with it—but I'm hoping things will still keep growing, and we can get back to normal in the fall."

He did confirm that livestock was pres-ent on the community pasture at the time, but no major injuries resulted from the storm.

"There's a band of mares scratched up. The storm pushed them into a fence corner, and they're scratched, but they're not cut," he said. "Our horses in the yard here, same thing. They were body sore the next day from the hail and scratched up, but nothing out of commission, thank goodness!"

Tornado warnings were issued, and some people reported seeing funnel clouds, but no touch-downs were confirmed.

"The cell seemed to travel more or less along the Manitoba border," said Environ-ment and Climate Change Canada Meteo-rologist Terri Lang, "They started up sort of around Estherhazy/Rocanville, and then kind of traveled south from there."

Reports of hall northeast of Rocanville came in, but according to RM of Rocan-ville Reeve Melissa Ruhland, no substantial damage resulted.

"As far as damage goes, I haven't heard anything that was really badly damaged in the RM of Rocanville," she said, add-

WRIGHT'S AUCTION SERVICE



A major storm rolled through parts of southeast Saskatchewan and into southwest Manitoba on August. 18. Here's the view Justin Oertel had of the system as it roared through the Kola, Manitoba area.

ing the core of the system seemed to be headed toward Spy Hill. "I don't know if it did much damage with it being so wet alwordt." already.

Lang said there were reports of twoonie-sized hail around Gerald and Colmer; quarter-sized hail in Elkhorn and south of McAuley; dime-sized hail around Rocanville; and pea-sized hail in the Esterhazy, Tantallon and Oakburn areas.

"We're starting to get kind of late in the season for severe weather, but this has been an unusual season that way," Lang said. "Last year, we had one tornado in the province, which was a record low for the time that we've kept records, and this year it's been a lot more active with severe weather.'

She noted tornados are actually not the systems that typically cause the most damage during a weather event.

"Contrary to popular belief, the straight line winds—or plow winds, as they call them in Saskatchewan—do the vast mathem in Saskatchewan—do the Vast ma-jority of the damage because they can blow as strong as an EF2 tornado, and they can cover a much larger area than a tornado ever could," Lang explained. Pearson had a relevant example of just how strong those winds can become, shar-ing how a courbe him in his urad word

ing how a couple bins in his yard were

ing now a couple bins in his yard were tossed around during the storm. "We had two old bins in the yard on a wood floor," Pearson said. "One ended up well across the yard behind my house, and the other one ended up south out in the pasture. It went through three fences and only smashed one, so it was bouncing or doing something like that."

He estimated that bin came to rest approximately half a mile south of the farmyard. Glass will be in hot demand for awhile

as Pearson noted any north-facing win-dows installed in a building or vehicle had been shattered.

"One of the houses in the yard here, there's very little siding left on the north-side," Pearson said. "I couldn't believe it." Generally, once the end of August is in sight, the wild weather calms down just is time for horizon according to bird, into in time for harvest operations to kick into

high gear. "The biggest factor is the crops are

maturing so they don't give off as much moisture," Lang said. "It's called evapo-transpiration, and that moisture is used by the atmosphere to form storms. So once the crops start maturing, we lose a big source of moisture." Shorter days are also a key factor in taming the weather.

"The storm systems can't form as big and as strong," Lang noted. "But this year we've had enough moisture and we seem to be tapping into a couple other sources of moisture this year, so it's still going nretty strong." pretty strong.

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Provinces call on federal government to reverse capital gains changes for the ag sector

At the annual conference of Federal, Provincial, Territorial (FPT) Ministers of Agriculture in Whitehorse, Yukon in July, the Ministers of Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Mani-

Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Mani-toba expressed serious concerns about changes to the capi-tal gains tax proposed in the 2024 federal budget and the impacts they will have on the agricultural sector. The changes to the capital gains tax was not a topic on the agenda of the annual meeting of FPT Ministers of Ag-riculture. Provinces raised the topic during roundtable dis-cussions, and noted that these changes will inadvertently, disproportionately and unfairly target producers and their succession plane. succession plans

"Agriculture is the backbone of our economy," Saskatch-ewan Minister of Agriculture David Marit said. "We must work with our producers, ensuring their success and the proposed changes to capital gains taxes will make it harder for us to do just that. It is our position that the federal gov-ernment reverse this harmful policy and work with producers and provinces to keep our agriculture sector strong and vibrant

vibrant."
"The proposed changes to the capital gains tax are deeply concerning for Alberta's agricultural community." Alberta's Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation RJ Sigurd-son said. "These changes will unfairly burden our farmers and ranchers, who are already facing significant challenges. The federal government must reconsider these measures as they threaten the long-term viability of Canada's agricul-tural sector and the livelihood or these under domend on it." "The Ontario approach has always been to reduce taxes

and red tape for farmers, agricultural employers, and agri-business stakeholders," Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness Rob Flack said. "Raising capital gains taxes at a time when so many farmers are approaching retirement and managing farm succession planning is a serious mistake and our government opposes it unequivocally

Intergenerational transfers play an integral part in suc-cession planning for family farms. According to the ag min-isters, increasing inclusion rates from one-half to two-thirds for individual capital gains above \$250,000, and from one-half to two-thirds for corporations, will penalize farming operation transfers. Farmers and ranchers who rely on sell-ion their exects for minument will also see their actimment ing their assets for retirement will also see their retirement plans diminished.

The ministers say the changes to the capital gains tax will jeopartize the long-term viability of family farms who are unable to keep pace with federal tax measures, in addition to other increasing costs associated with the farming industry

A recent study from the Royal Bank of Canada suggests



that 40 per cent of farm operators will retire by 2030. "The New Brunswick government has always been supportive in providing resources for farmers to assist with succession planning." New Brunswick's Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Minister Margaret Johnson said. "At a time when the average age of farmers is 57, we must provide policies which encourage our young people to en-gage in the sector. We must make farming more enticing and eliminate the obteckee impeding antry by supporting. and eliminate the obstacles impeding entry by supporting the succession of farmers.

"Island farmers like their colleagues across the country "Island farmers like their colleagues across the country have worked tirelessly to produce top quality food feed-ing the nation and the world," PEI Minister of Agriculture Bloyce Thompson said, "A driving force for most farm-ers is to provide an opportunity for the next generation to carry on the family tradition. Changing the capital gains structure will harm the farming industry by stripping val-ue from the family farm through increased taxation. Now is the time we should be investing in our agricultural in-dustry and make it easier to farm. The changes to the taxa-tion of capital gains adds to their burden and should be reconsidered." reconsidered.

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security are vitally important," Nova Scotia's Agriculture Minister Greg Morrow said. "With an aging agricultural workforce, now is the time to encourage young people who are interested in farming and food production. The federal government's proposed capital gains tax could have a sig-nificant impact on farms and farmers and their succession plans.

"Manitoba stands with producers who are especially be-ing hit hard by these changes to the Capital Gains Tax," Manitoba's Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn said. Manitoba's Agriculture Minister Kon Kostyshyn said. "After years of succession planning, long-time producers should be able to retire knowing that their children have the opportunity of becoming the young farmers that will feed the next generation of Canadians. Manitoba has gone to great lengths to reduce costs for producers, including low-ering the cost of crown lands and freezing the provincial gas tax, and this change will only increase costs for produc-ore who are already troing anonyue challenger." ers who are already facing enormous challenges." The ministers urged the federal minister to make agri-

culture a priority around the federal Cabinet table, and ask that the proposed changes to the capital gains tax impact-ing the broader agriculture and food industry be immediately reversed.

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Harvest 15 per cent complete as of last week

Producers continue to make progress with harvest despite scattered storms throughout the province over the past week. A few areas received severe storms producing heavy rain and hail caus-ing some crop damage. The lack of moisture in other areas of the province continues to advance crop maturity. Producers that have started harvest that have started harvest are indicating variable yields across the province. In many regions increased heat has impacted grain fill resulting in yield reduc-tions across various crops.

Currently, Saskatchewan is reporting 15 per cent of harvest complete, ahead of the five-year average of 13 per cent and the 10-year average of 11 per cent. The southwest continues to lead in harvest progress, with 29 per cent of the crop harvested. This is followed by the southeast at 21 per cent and the east-central region at 17 per cent. No-tably much of the harvest progress for the east-cen-tral region has occurred around the Hanley area

due to experiencing drier conditions as compared to the rest of the region. The west-central and northeast regions both sit at five per cent harvest completion and the northwest region reports one per cent of har-vest complete.

Harvest progress ad-vanced for all crops over the past week. Provincially, fall rye leads in harvyst progress at 62 per cent followed by triticale at 61 per cent and winter wheat at 56 per cent. Lentils and field peas continue to lead the per ment accord in the series in the spring-seeded crops in harvest progress; 50 per cent of lentils and 44 per cent of lentils and 44 per cent of peas are harvested. For cereals, barley sits at 17 per cent harvested, durum is 14 per cent, oats are 11 per cent and spring wheat is four per cent harvested provincially. With 17 per cent harvested, mustard leads in oilseed harvest

progress followed by cano-la at only two per cent har-vested across the province. Provincially, grade qual-ity is variable for fall rye and winter wheat. Fall rye is reported at 57 per cent 1 CW, 26 per cent 2 CW, and 17 per cent 3 CW. Winter wheat grade quality is reported at 61 per cent 1 CW, 25 per cent 2 CW, 13 per cent 3 CW and one per cent as feed

Rain was variable over the past week with areas receiving no rainfall, to isoreceiving no raintail, to iso-lated storms reported that produced heavy rain and hail. The highest rainfall recorded fell in the Craven area at 69 mm, followed by the Strasbourg area at 66 mm and the Caron area t 52 mm. The Atborfield at 52 mm. The Arborfield area received 49 mm and 48 mm over the past week. Recent moisture has helped improve topsoil helped improve topsoil moisture conditions across some areas of the province. Currently, cropland topsoil moisture is 35 per cent ad-equate, 41 per cent short and 24 per cent very short. Hayland topsoil moisture is 31 per cent adequate, 44 per cent short and 25 per cent very short. Pasture

cent very short. Pasture topsoil moisture is 25 per cent adequate, 43 per cent short and 41 per cent very short.

Pasture conditions have declined in certain regions. declined in certain regions. Currently, four per cent of pastures are in excellent condition, 22 per cent are good, 36 per cent are fair, 25 per cent are poor and 13 per cent are very poor. Crop damage over the past week was mainly due to the lack of moisture throughout many regions, along with the increased temperatures.

temperatures.





Biofuel expansion promising for Canadian producers and consumers: FCC analysis



BY JILL MCALISTER, CORPORATE COMMUNICATION, FCC As Canadians fill up their fuel tanks this summer,

they are also powering a growing biofuel sector. According to Farm Credit Canada (FCC), Canada's oilseed producers are set to benefit from the current biofuel boom across North America.

Ethanol vs. biodiesel and renewable diesel

Ethanol is the most produced biofuel globally and in Canada with plants producing nearly 150 million li-tres per month. While no new ethanol plants have been built recently, existing ones have boosted productivity by extracting more ethanol from each tonne of grain. Ethanol also enhances gasoline octane, making it a valuable fuel additive

Ethanol also enhances gasoline octane, making it a valuable fuel additive. "Ethanol production in Canada is steady, with a fo-cus on efficiency, ensuring a reliable supply," said Jus-tin Shepherd, senior economist at FCC. Biodiesel, made primarily from vegetable oils, has limitations in cold weather, leading to seasonal fluc-tuations in blending. Renewable diesel, however, can be used year-round due to its chemical similarity to traditional diesel, offering higher carbon credit prices and easier integration. and easier integration. "Higher ethanol blends in gasoline are a positive

development for both the environment and the econ-omy," Shepherd noted. "Renewable diesel's versatility makes it a game-changer for consistent biofuel blending.'

Increasing biofuel use

Canadian fuel blenders are increasing ethanol content in gasoline, with ethanol now accounting for 10 per cent of finished gasoline. Future increases will comply with provincial and federal mandates, though the rise in electric vehicles may affect long-term demand.

Biodiesel blending peaks in summer, reaching near-ly four per cent of the diesel blend, while renewable diesel use is expected to grow consistently due to new production capacity.

Vegetable oils as primary inputs Increased renewable diesel production relies mainly on vegetable oils, up to 51 per cent in early 2024. Ca-nadian canola oil exports to the U.S. are on track for a record year, driven by U.S. biofuel policies.

"Canadian oilseed producers are positioned to capi-talize on the growing demand for biofuels in North America," Shepherd added. "It demonstrates the potential for biofuels to contribute to cleaner energy



Canada's oilseed producers stand to gain from the North American biofuel boom. Rising blend rates, in-creased oilseed crush capacity, and government support enhance the sector's prospects.



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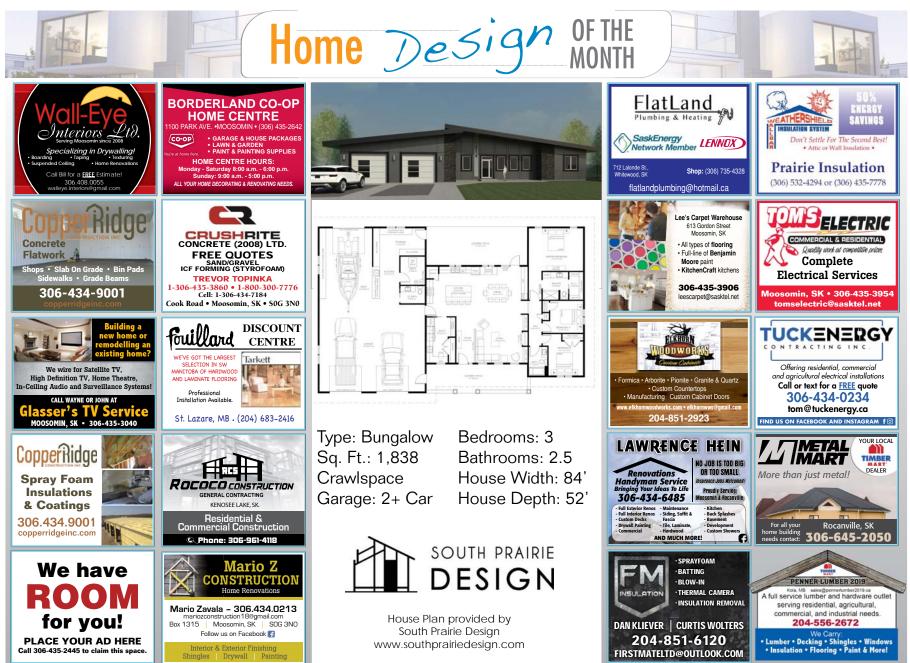
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Ag News

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EMILI and FCC renew Innovation Farms partnership



BY JACQUELINE KEENA MANAGING DIRECTOR, EMILI

EMILI is pleased to announce the re-newal and enhancement of its partner-ship with Farm Credit Canada (FCC) at Innovation Farms powered by AgExpert. This partnership will be celebrated dur-ing Manitoba 4R Day along with a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the recent

opening of Innovation Farms Centre. The partnership between EMILI and FCC was first established in 2022 to support strategic projects at Innovation Farms, a smart farm near Winnipeg that creates space for industry innovators and researchers to test, validate, and demon-

strate agtech solutions to help producers maximize efficiency, profitability and sus-tainability in their on-farm practices. "EMILI is grateful to FCC AgExpert for their visionary support," said EMILI Managing Director Jacqueline Keena. "Since launching, we have partnered on close to 50 projects on Innovation Farms, welcomed hundreds of visitors, and opened an 8,500 square foot Innovation Farms Centre. FCC's multi-year commit-ment allows us to collaborate on more projects to increase the development and adoption of on-farm technologies to ef-fectively solve prairie issues at a prairie scale." scale '

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Innovation Farms launched in 2022 to enable farmer-centric innovation, ad-vance sustainable technologies and techniques, and increase digital agriculture skills and knowledge. With access to over 5,500 acres and more than a decade of his-torical farm data, EMILI is able to share a wealth of resources and information with collaborators to increase adoption of digital tools and bring innovative solutions from pre-commercial into the market. "EMILI's commitment to Innovation

Farms powered by AgExpert is a testament to what can be accomplished when the agriculture industry comes together," says Darren Baccus, FCC executive vice-president, agri-food, alliances, and FCC capital. "We can neet the challenges fac-ing the agriculture industry by putting our energy and resources into projects that deliver results, like EMILI's Innovation Farms.

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B12

Turning over a new leaf: Tackling tan spot disease in wheat

Perhaps one of the most recogniz able scenes on the Canadian Prairies is fields upon fields of golden wheat. Long a symbol of agriculture in the Prairies, wheat is Canada's largest field crop, with an average of about 30 million tonnes harvested annu-ally. That's about seven times what Canadians typically consume, and much of our wheat is destined to feed families around the world. Highly valued worldwide for its high quality and protein content, our wheat is exported to approximately 80 countries, making it an important economic crop. So, we must ensure wheat crops in Canada continue to thrive.

Like any type of plant, wheat fac-es harm from disease. As one of our earliest and most iconic cereal crops, researchers have long been exploring new breeds and ways to protect this important food staple. In fact, Canada has a rich history of studying wheat, all the way back to the late 1800s.

Spotting the problem: the worldwide emergence of tan spot disease

One of the more recently discov-ered diseases that threaten our wheat

ered diseases that threaten our wheat crops is a fungal infection called tan spot disease. In infected crops, if you look closely at the green leaves of wheat, you may see tan-coloured lesions, or spots, cover-ing the leaf surface. These lesions are symptoms of infec-tion by the fungus Pyrenophora tritici-repentis. The fun-gus is a specialized necrotroph (a parasite that rapidly kills its host and feeds on the dead tissues), and since its emergence about 50 years ago it has become one of the most destructive leaf diseases of wheat worldwide. Like most fungi, the fungus that causes tan spot thrives in wet conditions. While spring rain helps wheat grow, it may also be creating the right conditions for infection. The fungus will release its spores, spreading the disease

The fungus will release its spores, spreading the disease across fields, infecting crops and causing significant damage.

damage. If left unmanaged, severe tan spot infection can drasti-cally damage the foliage (leaves) of the wheat crop. As in most plants, the leaves on wheat capture light and convert it into the chemical energy that helps the plant grow. It sounds simple, but for those who remember science class in school, you may recall that it's actually a very complex process called photosynthesis. The leaf damage that tan spot causes impacts the wheat plant's ability to photosynthesize a cuuting its crowth and dedamage that tan spot causes impacts the wheat plant's ability to photosynthesize, stunting its growth and de-creasing yield and grain quality. If the damage occurs on the upper leaves, it has the potential to reduce yield by 60% or more. In addition, if the pathogen progresses from the leaf to the wheat head, it can cause further dam-age known as red smudge – a reddish discolouration of the grain which can reduce its grade quality and value. This makes tan spot a serious economic threat to wheat production, with potential losses estimated at millions of dollars annually. Most growers use fungicides to control tan enot, but

Most growers use fungicides to control tan spot, but given the danger this disease poses, more work must be done to identify effective management strategies and cultivate new, resistant wheat varieties.

A team of researchers at AAFC is leading a national and international collaboration (with Europe, North and South America, North Africa, India, Japan, and Austra-



Typical presentation of tan spot.



Dr. Aboukhaddour in the field

lia) to understand how the disease has evolved globally – and how we might be able to slow its progression. This diverse team of experts is lead by Dr. Reem Aboukhad-dour of the Lethbridge Research and Development Centre, also collaborating locally with Dr. Kelly Turkington

of the Lacombe Re arch and Development Centre and Dr. Myriam Fer-nandez of the Swift Current Research and Development Centre.

Getting to the (genetic)

The team is analyzing the patho-gen's entire genetic makeup and changes in its chromosomes using multiple areas of science including: pathology, the study of disease; ge-nomics, the study of an organism's genetic material; and bioinformatics tools to help understand the comtools to help understand the com-plex biological data sets. The focus is understanding how disease-causing understanding now disease-causing genes have shifted and moved across various strains of the pathogen. The team is also looking at how these genes vary in different populations globally, and which local variables or conditions can cause the fungus to unrative and accord accord

or conditions can cause the fungus to survive and reproduce. "It's so important to get a clear picture of how the pathogen that causes tan spot disease is evolving. This will help us spot trends, envi-ronmental conditions and other fac-tors that enable the disease to thrive, and honefully discurre colutions that and hopefully discover solutions that help manage it effectively," says Dr. Aboukhaddour.

Researchers have identified muta-tions, duplications, and transposons as key factors driv-ing the evolution of this fungus.

Continued on page B14 🖙



Turning over a new leaf: Tackling tan spot disease in wheat

🖙 Continued from page B13 Transposons

Transposons – some-times called "jumping genes" – are pieces of DNA that readily move around within the genome or across different genomes, carrying disease-causing genes as they go. Finding a novel class of transposons from which this fungus spreads its virulence was an important discoverv some spreads its virulence was an important discovery and may help researchers unlock the key to control-ling the disease. The team also found unusual new forms of the pathogen in various places around the world – including Cana-da – that cause increased damage to durum wheat. Ongoing research aims to Ongoing research aims to identify virulence factors in these new forms, help-ing researchers find ways to effectively control the disease in wheat crops.

Laying the path forward

While research contin-ues, the team has already ues, the team has already provided invaluable re-sources to the research community, such as fully sequenced genomic data of this pathogen using a di-verse set of P. tritici-repen-tis fungus from Canadian and worldwide sources and worldwide sources. Scientists hope that this AAFC research will one day lead to solutions that



Dr. Aboukhaddour in the lab.

could reduce the incidence of tan spot in wheat fields around the world – ulti-mately helping farmers protect their fields from the damaging disease and se-vere economic threat.

Key Facts

• Canadian wheat is highly valued worldwide for its high quality and protein content. It's also exported to about 80 coun-

Tan spot is a fungal infection that damages the leaves of wheat, affecting the plant's ability to pho-

tosynthesize, stunting its growth and decreasing yield and grain quality. • Since its emergence

Since its emergence about 50 years ago, tan spot disease has become a serious economic threat to wheat production, with potential losses estimated at millions of dollars annu-ular.

• AAFC researchers, lead • AAPC researchers, read by Dr. Reem Aboukhad-dour, are conducting a national and international collaboration to under-stand how the disease has evolved globally – and how we might be able to slow its progression

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UNION



B14

Nearly ready for harvest 2024!

With combines beginning to roll, we went from think-ing (during the wet, cool seeding season) harvest would likely start a bit later than usual to (after a hot, dry sum-mer season) let's roll or at the very least, let's get ready to roll at any moment! to roll at any moment!

I personally am not ready. Maybe I am never ready, to be honest. I don't have a single frozen meal tucked away. I haven't dug out my handy-dandy notebook full of frozen meal and harvest-handy casserole recipes and of frozen meal and harvest-handy casserole recipes and ideas. Our RV on the farm has yet to be stocked with groceries for the season. On the other hand, the grass is cut around the camper and the weed-whacking has cut back the overgrowth around the RV deck that sort of got away on us during 'lake time.' The bed is freshly made and the water tank is full. So there's that. To be fair, it's been a crazy but wonderful summer cases I also time to fich and

season. Lake time, though hot, gave us time to fish and season Lake time, though hot, gave us time to fish and spend time with the grands. Time in Calgary for our niece's (Kaylyn) wedding, though hot, was wonderful and beyond beautiful. Of course there were a million and beyond beautiful of ourse dreft were a minimum memories popping up in my mind on her wedding day because this beautiful young gal is one of two nicces who grew up on the farm next to ours and spent mega hours with us. Barely half a mile across the field from us, she was a delight for us enjoy and we couldn't begin to count the times she came to our place, went to the city with us, and took off on vacation with us.

with us, and took off on vacation with us. When we were in Calgary, we had an opportunity to visit with Kaylyn's "other side of the family" from Whitewood. When I asked Kaylyn's cousins that farm near Whitewood how they were enjoying Calgary, I couldn't help but laugh at one of their answers: "Only one mile into this city and I would give anything to be driving on a gravel road!" Ah yes, country life runs deep.

deep. I have to say that even though Kaylyn has been in Calgary for the past dozen years or so, I couldn't help but be a tad emotional at her wedding. As for driving away from her house when we left Calgary, yup, pretty emo-tional yet again and I was reminded of when she left home for the city after high school graduation. Oh man, those times were tough on me but oh how proud I am of all of these kids I have had the privilege of watching grow and mature into such wonderful adults.

grow and mature into such wonderful adults. This past summer, I received many texts about post-er design and Facebook posts and what not from an-other niece, Kathryn, as she is working at the museum in Whitewood on her summer hiatus from U of C. One day, Calgary niece (just prior to her wedding) texted me to ask about printing something and I saw the 'K' in the name and just presumed it was my 'museum' niece. And so I asked her if there was black ink in the printer



and cardstock (heavy paper) for printing only for her to respond no, she didn't even have a printer let alone ink or cardstock. My initial reaction was, what the heck, of course the museum has a printer and ink. Long story short, I finally realized which niece I was talking to and that she wunted me to do some printing for her. And that she wanted me to do some printing for her. And literally at that moment, as I was printing something for someone else, my printer said, "out of black toner." Talk about a mad scramble to order a refill and then cross my fingers that it would arrive before I headed west. And

fingers that it would arrive before I headed west. And yes, it ended up being one of those "get it done the night before" moments, but it all came together just fine! One of the highlights of our summer was an oppor-tunity to spend a few days at a fly-in/boat-in fishing camp. There's nothing quite like a quick getaway just before harvest is set to begin, and this was one of those last minute-planned moments. Pine Point Lodge is tech-nically in Scale tabecure although you meak it but seem

last minute-planned moments. Pine Point Lodge is tech-nically in Saskatchewan although you reach it by com-ing in from Cranberry Portage or Flin Flon, Manitoba. And so it was, joined by a couple of our kids and their kids, that we made our way north to the forests and lakes of northern Manitoba. I can only describe it as in-credibly beautiful. This remote little spot where only the sound of the loon can be heard at night was so peaceful and cs dicktful the L didc' upart to come home. Not and so delightful that I didn't want to come home. Not only did it feel like the NW Ontario forests of my childhood home, it gave us an opportunity to see our grands enjoying the lakes of the north.

Fishing may not be my thing, but to see my hubby and my family enjoying the fishing and having a whole lot of fun away from the hustle and bustle of our usual life totally warmed my heart. We enjoyed lots of laughs around the fire at night (the amount of mosquito repel-lent required—not so much) and to see the joy in the kids' faces as they recounted their fishing stories and other stories as well. The twins (13) who were on the trip up north have this dream to being outfitters (imagine!) and when I saw Wyatt take Gramps out in the little boat and head across the bay. I couldn't help but think that may be sooner than you think! The twins also took their younger cous-in (10) out fishing in the bay, dropping anchor and cast-ing away. And last night when I asked the 10 year old what the best part of going north was, unsurprisingly his answer was, "Us kids going out on the boat by our-selves." selves.

One night, around the fire, the boys were recounting being left at the auction barn in Whitewood after 4-H one day. "What do you mean," I asked them. "How could you get left at the auction barn?"

"Well," said one, "Dad thought we went home with Mom.

"And," said the other, "Mom thought we went home with Dad."

And that's the story, short and simple. They had been left at the auction barn after the third consecutive day of 4-H back in early July. Of course I asked if they had been a tad worried. "Nope," they both responded. And apparently, not even when the last 4-H family still at the market couldn't reach the twins' parents by phone, they were cool. And patient. And by the looks of it, they avantable made it become eventually made it home!

We have had a handful of kids during our usual Au-gust daycare days. It's been great to do some museum visits, swimming, crepe eating, go for ice cream treats, go out to great Grandma's to gather dill and eat apples off the tree, golf cart here, there and everywhere, take in the local rodeo and allow the kids to overload on cotton It is busy, it's crazy and it's loud and I have come to the conclusion that keeping throws and pillows neatly on the conclusion that keeping throws and pillows neatly on the couch is impossible with children. But it's wonderful and I wouldn't have it any other way!

ful and I wouldn't have it any other way! Last week I dug a few potatoes from my garden and proceeded to cut them into French fries. Our youngest granddaughter (8) asked what I was doing. "Making home fries for lunch," I said. "Oh Grandma, no," she said. "You don't make French fries from potatoes. You get them from a package at the store." The minute I try to re-tell that story, her ears perk up and she says, "No, no, no, don't tell that story, Grandma!" But told it has been! been!!

Now it's off to the farm-just to make sure everything is in place in our tiny home away from home, so when that first combine rolls out of the yard, I'm ready to be some sort of support system for my guys in the field. Happy harvesting y'all!!

EMILI and FCC renew Innovation Farms partnership

** Continued from page B12 "We are driving the future of agriculture and opo trunities that harness the true po-tential of this industry." Canadian organizations and entrepre-neurs, many of them located in the prairies, are recognized as world leaders in digital agriculture and are poised to play a major

are recognized as world leaders in digital agriculture and are poised to play a major role in increasing the productivity and sus-tainability of our agricultural food systems. The continued success of Canadian agricul-ture relies on its ability to focus on adopting technology, attracting a skilled and diverse labour force, and embracing sustainability, all of which supports profitability on the farm farm

With a limited number of harvests in their careers, producers need assurance that new technologies will optimize resources and increase productivity and sustainability on their farms. Innovation Farms provides that assurance. The technologies we are testing and vali-

ating at Innovation Farms allow us to sup-port entrepreneurs and agtech innovators as they develop real-world digital agriculture solutions to give Canadian producers the edge in a quickly changing industry," said

Keena. Through Innovation Farms, EMILI is able

Through Innovation Farms, EMILI is able to provide the acres needed to advance inno-vation and research, getting new digital tools confidently into the hands of producers. "We are thankful to FCC AgExpert for their ongoing commitment to this work," said Keena. "Their support ensures we can continue to build a sustainable and econom-inducer in the substantiant of the substantiant of the sub-stantiant of the support ensures we can continue to build a sustainable and economically resilient digital agriculture sector for generations to come

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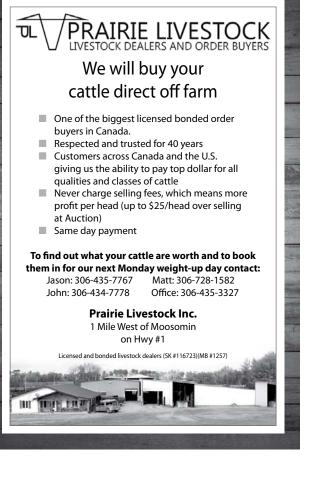
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B16

USask farm shoulder study shows research in action at Ag in Motion

BY CCRAH COMMUNICATIONS

The Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health (CCRAH) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) partnered with industry to conduct much-needed research at the recent annual Ag in Motion outdoor agricultural show near Langham, Sask., July 16-18, 2024.

Dr. Angelica Lang (PhD), faculty lead of the musculoskeletal and ergonomics lab at the centre, is researching shoulder movement during basic farm tasks to better understand how common shoulder injuries develop in farmers.

"At first, I thought I'd go to Ag in Motion to recruit farmers. We've been visiting farmers on their own farms to conduct the study, so I thought the event would be a great opportunity to recruit participants," Lang said.

One of the limiting factors for the study is that it requires one major piece of agricultural machinery: the air cart for a seed drill. These are usually found on farms. "But then, Morris Equipment came forward. They let us set up the research study right on their site at Ae in Mo-

"But then, Morris Equipment came forward. They let us set up the research study right on their site at Ag in Motion and use their air cart on site. That way, we could recruit farmers and have them do the study immediately," Lang explained. Morris and its sister company, RiteWay Manufacturing, sell agricultural equipment including air carts and seed drills. Garth Massie, Canadian sales and marketing manager for Morris, provided the research group space on their site, and access to

the air cart. The research team ran each farmer through a series of questions, then put sensors on their arms, sternum, and shoulders and made sure the sensors were calibrated. Each farmer then did three repetitions of four regular on-farm tasks: drilling a screw into wood at eye level, shoveling some dirt, carrying a 30-pound bag up the seed drill tank, and then (pretending) to pour the seed into the tank.

"Our customers are farmers. It made sense to have the centre researchers set up on our site, so the farmers could run through all the tests," Massie said.

through all the tests," Massie said. "As a scientist, I think they'll get really good data from doing the study at our Ag in Motion site, maybe even better than going farm-to-farm. All of them used the same drill, the same shovel, and walked up and down the same air cart."

Lang said the partnership came together quickly. Morris supported the idea of running the study at Ag in Motion and made sure there was space on their site for a small tent and access to the air cart. The Ag in Motion organizers also supported the plan.

The CCRAH, via their Agricultural Health and Safety Network, has regularly attended Ag in Motion, sharing health and safety resources with farmers. Those working at the booth helped to recruit farmers for the study and sent them over to the outdoor Morris booth.

outdoor Morris booth. Lang said that the study was able to recruit nearly 20 male and female farmers, which was a great opportunity for the study, and for her lab.

> Continued on page B19 🖙

Steven Bonk,

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View of the 2024 Ag in Motion outdoor farm show near Langham, Sask.

Katie Thompson photo

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4 11 18 19 23 25	Wednesday Wednesday Thursday Monday Wednesday	Regular Sale Presort Feeder Sale Regular Sale Tack / Small Animals Pre-Sort Sheep / Goat Sale Horse Sale Butcher Cows / Bulls Presort Feeder Sale Presort Feeder Sale	. 10 a.m. . 9 a.m. . 5 p.m. . 6 p.m. . Approx. 7 p.m. . 8 a.m. . 10 a.m.
30	Monday	Butcher Cows / Bulls	. 8 a.m.

- OCTOBER 2024 -

I	2	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	. 10 a.m.
l	4	Friday	D.A.R.K. Horse & Cattle Co. Horse Sale	.6 p.m.
l	7	Monday	Butcher Cows / Bulls	.8 a.m.
1	9	Wednesday	Simmental Bonanza Presort Feeder Sale	. 10 a.m.
1	16	Wednesday	Charolais Extravaganza Presort Feeder Sale	. 10 a.m.
ļ	17	Thursday	Tack / Small Animals	.5 p.m.
į			Pre-Sort Sheep / Goat Sale	.6 p.m.
ļ			Horse Sale	. Approx. 7 p.m.
i	23	Wednesday	Angus Showcase Sale #1 Presort Feeder Sale	. 10 a.m.
i	25	Friday	Butcher Cows / Bulls	.8 a.m.
i	30	Wednesday	Angus Showcase Sale #2 Presort Feeder Sale	. 10 a.m.
r.				

- NOVEMBER 2024 -

Charolais / Simmental	10 a.m.
Special Butcher Cows / Bulls	8 a.m.
British Influenced / Speckle Park Gather Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
Butcher Cows / Bulls	8 a.m.
Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
Tack / Small Animals	5 p.m.
Pre-Sort Sheep / Goat Sale	6 p.m.
Horse Sale.	Approx. 7 p.m.
Regular Sale Feeders & Butcher Cattle	9 a.m.
Season Opener Bred Cow & Heifer Sale	

- DECEMBER 2024 -

Monday	Butcher Cows / Bulls	8 a.m.
Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	
Friday	Bred Cow Extravaganza Sale	5 p.m.
Monday	No Borders Charolais Sale	
Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	
Friday	December Classic Bred Cow / Heifer Sale	5 p.m.
Wednesday	Regular Sale Feeders & Butcher Cattle	9 a.m.
Friday	Winter Soltice Bred Cow / Heifer Sale	5 p.m.



Wednesday

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USask farm shoulder study shows research in action at Ag in Motion

** Continued from page B19 "The students had a really active role, connect-ing with farmers, answering questions, and walk-ing them through the tasks," she said. "It was a

learning opportunity for everyone." Dr. Shelley Kirychuk (PhD), director of the CCRAH, said that this partnership showcased the important relationships between agricultural industries and the centre's health research.

"There is no agriculture without farm-ers," she said. "Our Centre is founded on supporting rural and agricultural people to live and work healthy and safe. Industry knows that our work is central to a thriving agricultural industry not just in Saskatch-ewan, but across Canada and around the world." world.

"We are thankful for, and proud of, the great research partnership with Morris Equipment at Ag in Motion," she added.

Δ farmer participates in the shoulder study, carrying a 30-pound bag up the Morris air cart at Ag in Motion. PhD student Denise Balogh captures the data.

Katie Thompson photos

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A farmer shovels dirt as one of the three tasks in the farmer shoulder motion study at Ag in Motion, with PhD student Denise Balogh capturing data.



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NOMINATION MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

Grenfell Community Hall • Meeting Starts at 6pm

NOTE:

- 1. You MUST buy a Sask Party membership by 4pm, September 3rd, 2024.
- 2. You MUST show up at the meeting at 6^{pm}, September 10th to vote.



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I've had the pleasure of getting to know Kevin over the years, especially during my years as an MLA. In fact, whenever I'm in Moosomin I still take a moment to drop by and see how things are going.

Nevin is a community person. I ve noted his involvement in many community endeavours. While many local papers are struggling or closing their doors, he has continued to put out an award winning newspaper. I've been impressed not only with the quality of information the World-Spectator includes, but with the fact that Kevin and staff have included information from and about many community endeavours in surrounding communities.

-Former Moosomin MLA Don Toth

Kevin is also aware of the economic engine that fuels our en

omy as he continues to remind us of the important role agriculture, mining and oil and gas play in our area as well as the province.

I believe Kevin will be an effective voice in the Legislative Assembly of our province and will represent the constituency of Moosomin-Montmartre well as an MLA.

Kevin has earned a well deserved reputation as a strong and passionate supporter of Southeastern Saskatchewan and the people of the Moosomin-Montmartre constituency.

From his leadership and advocacy on local issues to his intelligence and diligence. Kevin would be a strong and committed voice for the people of this constituency.

I urge everyone to buy a party membership and attend the nomination meeting on September 10th. We need Kevin Weedmark in the Saskatchewan Legislature!

—John Gormley, Former Saskatchewan talk show host, MP, and political author



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